



# OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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## 32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 7 NOVEMBER 2021

### HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 &amp; 11.00</b>	
MONDAY	12 noon	
TUESDAY	12 noon	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Stuart Banach
THURSDAY	12 noon	St Martin of Tours
FRIDAY	12 noon	St Josaphat
SATURDAY	11.00 am	

**The church is open every day**

**Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 6.00 pm**

**Saturdays from 10.45 am to 8.00 pm**

**Sundays from 8.45 am to 12 noon (or later if Baptisms)**

**Confessional times: Saturday 11.40 am-12.50 pm, 6.00-6.40 pm**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday after 11.00 am Mass until 1.00 pm.**

### **My dear Parishioners and Friends,**

A newspaper headline ran ‘Time to open up’. It went on to explain that with more people being vaccinated, the risk of catching the coronavirus was receding.

Well, we will be opening up three things. The **piety stall re-opens today**. As well as more general items, you will find some useful goods for Confirmation and for Christmas.

A small but enthusiastic team of helpers runs the stall. Would you like to join them and help out at one of the Masses? If so, please let me have your name and phone number so that you can be contacted.

The second opening will be the new **Friendship Club**. That will open a **week next Wednesday, 17 November, in the parish hall**. The doors will open from 12.30, after the 12 noon Mass, and the Club will continue until 3.00 pm.

Last Sunday’s meeting in the hall showed that there is much support for such a Club. The Club is intended for all ages. Obviously, because of the time of day, it may mainly attract non-workers. It will be a chance to come together in a friendly atmosphere, to catch up on things and to have some entertainment. What that will be is for the members to decide. People present last Sunday mentioned a variety of

activities which may attract others who are unable to come at Wednesday lunchtime.

So, give it a go! Come along a week on Wednesday and let’s get the Friendship Club off to a good start. If you wish to bring relatives or friends, please do. The Club is open to all who wish to come, Catholic or not.

The third opening is also today, the **Confirmation meetings for children in Year 9**. We will meet **in the upper hall** at 12 noon, after the 11 o’clock Mass. Entrance to the upper hall will be through the lower hall. The meetings will continue on **Sundays 14 and 28 November and 5 December**.

The usual refreshments will be in the lower hall after both morning Masses. If family members are accompanying the confirmation candidates, they will be able to wait in the lower hall.



Looking ahead, the annual **International** Mass will be the 11 o'clock Mass on **Sunday 21 November**. Would you like to do one of the readings or the bidding prayers in your native language, or take part in the Offertory procession? If so, please let me know as soon as possible.

As already announced, there will be no Christmas Fair again this year. Knowing how crowded the hall can be on a Fair day, it seems wiser to wait. There will however be a Christmas raffle.

**Sunday 28 November** is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent wreath making will be in the hall that afternoon.

On **Monday 29 November** the 12 noon Mass will be the annual Martyrs' Mass of the Venerable English College, Rome.

We then look forward to the **Confirmation ceremony** on **Thursday 9 December**.



We kept last Sunday as a special day of prayer for the success of the meeting of world leaders in Glasgow. Our bishop, John Arnold, is at the meeting as the representative of the bishops of England and Wales. He has written a daily diary while there which may be seen on the diocesan website. On Tuesday he wrote: 'So far, the overall mood seems to

be that this is the moment, possibly the final opportunity, to get the right plan in place. Prayers please!' We will pray for this intention at each Mass today.



Just a reminder that you can join in all the Masses here by our **live stream**. Go to the parish website and click to open. Happy Sunday!

Fr Allen

### Fr Dearman's Reflections on Eucharistic hymns

#### 9 – SWEET SACRAMENT DIVINE

Are you a glass-half-empty person? Do you come to visit Our Lord with all the cares of the world on your shoulders? Then this hymn is for you! If on the other hand you come full of gratitude for the wonderful way your life is going at the moment, then spare a thought for many other people who have enormous burdens to carry, and bring them into your prayer. Jesus the healer is at hand to take care of everything, and this hymn reminds us of that infinite love he has for us all.

The first oft-repeated word is *sweet*. When our lives are bitter, Jesus provides the remedy. He does this through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. And in fact he IS the Sacrament of the Eucharist, so we can address him as *Sweet Sacrament Divine*. We come *round thy lowly shrine*, not that we look down on the tabernacle or the host, but just reminding ourselves that

these physical realities are small in comparison with the greatness of the Son of God. We come *with suppliant hearts*, pleading to the one whose human heart beats with love for us. We raise our voices to him *with love and heartfelt praise*, knowing that he above all people deserves that.

The second verse uses the words *peace, home, trustfully*. We trust that Jesus will take away our *restless yearnings and sorrows*. Like a little child pouring out his or her troubles to a loving parent, we whisper to him *our tale of misery*.

The next verse reminds us that our troubles are a small part of a major conflict going on in the world as we fight against the forces of evil. We are like people sailing in a small boat battling against the fury of a stormy ocean. We are in danger of sinking, or we would be if it were not for the calming presence of Jesus. He could calm the storm with a word of command, so we have every reason to trust in his help.

The final verse is full of optimism as it speaks of the light which shines on us whenever we contemplate the Son of God made Man. This light is so dazzling that it causes not only our sorrows to fade away, but even our earthly joys! This brings the hymn to a surprising end, but it is wonderful to think that the greatest joys we ever experience on earth are small in comparison with the joys of heaven.